

Claim 89 (currently amended): The method according to claim 87, wherein the amount of purified snake venom enzyme added is about 2×10^{-3} U to about 0.3 U per milliliter of reaction mixture.

REMARKS

Claims 45-57, 59-83 and 85-89 are pending. Claims 47-52, 56-61, 64, 73, 88, and 89 have been amended to correct typographical errors or errors of form.

Submission of Cited References

On page 2 of the Final Office Action the Examiner indicated that none of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 10, 2003, were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited in the International Search Report for International Application No. PCT/EP99/01599, mailed on July 27, 1999, were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 16, 2002, as References A1, A2, A4, B1, C1-C2, and C4-C8. These references were already considered by the Examiner (see courtesy copy of the initialed PTO-1449 form and International Search Report attached).

Applicants also submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement containing the publication number of co-owned, co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 10/331,731.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 45-57, 59-83, and 85-89 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-50 of U.S. Patent No. 6,395,501.

In order to promote prosecution, but without acquiescing to the merits of the rejection, Applicants submit an executed Terminal Disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

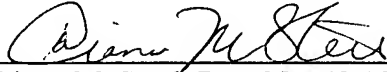
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 45-57, 59-83, and 85-89 are in condition for allowance and request early and favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,

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